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UNCLAS COLOMBO 001063

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS, SA/RA, PM

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REAPPORTIEMENT OF FMF

1. During the recent visit of the PACOM J4, Brigadier General James Kennon to Colombo, Post learned that India may not accept five million dollars in Foreign Military Funding (FMF) from the US government for a variety of reasons. If India does in fact not need the FMF, Post requests consideration of reapportionment of the five million into Sri Lanka's FMF account. Post's original request for 15 million of FMF in support of programs recommended by the 2002 US DoD assessments was reduced to 1 million in the final interagency.

2. The five million dollars of FMF would go a long way to strengthening the Sri Lankan military in the face of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a State Department Foreign Declared Terrorist Organization. As combatting terrorism is a national level and PACOM priority, assistance to the Sri Lankan military in containing LTTE terrorists in Sri Lanka supports Post's Mission plan and PACOM's theater Security Cooperation plan.

3. POC is LTC Richard S. Girven, Defense Attache tel 94-1-448007, ext 2442.

NOVAK